

Fire Marshal's Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
State Fire Marshal's Office
221 S. Central Aveune
Pierre, SD

October 13, 2022
9:00 AM

Call to Order & Roll Call:

The meeting was called to order and a quorum was present.

Board Members on Conference Line:

Brian Bowker, Rick Gustad, Mike Harstad, Mike Roemmich

Others Joining on meeting or by phone:

No others joined the meeting in person or by phone call.

Department of Public Safety Staff Present:

Doug Hinkle, Glenda Marks, and Paul Merriman.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – June 29, 2022:

A motion to approve minutes was made by Brian Bowker. The motion was seconded by Mike Roemmich. There were no comments or edits and minutes were approved.

Fire Marshal's Office Updates:

- Paul Merriman reported on the status of the Governor's special appropriation through the passage of SB51 in support of the fire service in SD. Project agreements have been sent out to the Rapid City Fire Department and the South Dakota Firefighters Association for review and signature. The third element of the appropriation includes the funding and development of a state level media campaign targeted at firefighter recruitment and retention. Fire Marshal Merriman informed the group that the media campaign is uncertain at this time due to cost overruns caused by production and supply chain issues.
- The group was briefed on the SDCFA Fall Conference and Membership Meeting. SFMO commended the SDCFA on the conference which was well attended and well run. The SD Joint Council of Fire Service Organizations and the SD Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service were held in conjunction with the fall conference.
- Doug Hinkle discussed the fall district fire schools and their locations. Varied attendance was reported depending on location.
- Paul Merriman informed the group of BATF Special Agent Kerri Hoogendoorn's recent retirement and that a meeting was held with both DCI and ATF partners to discuss future fire investigation protocols.
- Board members were invited to take part in SFMO monthly stakeholder field visits.

Member Updates:

- Board member Bowker discussed loss statistics related to recent fire activity.

- Rick Gustad provided attendance figures from the fall conference. Rick also discussed future plans to host State Fire School at Lake Area Technical College in Watertown. He informed the group that a plan is being worked on by the SDFFA for use of the live burn trailers being purchased through the Governor's Special Appropriation.
- Board member Harstad discussed some of the issues that the fire equipment manufacturers are dealing with in regard to production costs and supply chain issues and the impact it is having on the industry and fire departments. Industry indicators do not show any projected improvement until the 3rd quarter of 2023. Mike also discussed the high number of structure fires being reported in the Hartford area. SFMO will be reviewing NFIRS data and reviewing findings with deputies and monitoring.
- Mike Roemmich reported recent fire activity in the Aberdeen area. He indicated that people seemed to be cautious thus far during the red flag warnings but he expects to see an increase in fire activity once harvest gets fully underway and the temps drop as we fast approach heating season.

Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting of the Fire Marshal's Advisory Board will be scheduled for the month of December. The date, time, and location of the meeting will be announced.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 9:43 AM.